



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 26, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a Roman Catholic religious order and a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. We operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Together, we are Benedictine women called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need. We have been actively helping the poor, educating youth and welcoming those in need for over one-hundred and fifty years in both Chicago and Colorado.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will grossly limit our ability to keep in touch with our alumni and those whom we spiritually support throughout the country. Our bi-annual magazine, keeping our supporters connected to us all these years, would possibly have to be dropped. If we are unable to afford to reach out to our supporters, we may not be able to raise funds and assist the poor, the homeless and the disenfranchised.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Judith Murphy, OSB
Prioress